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Clintons refuse to testify in House Epstein probe as Republicans threaten contempt proceedings

By **STEPHEN GROVES**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Tuesday that they will refuse to comply with a congressional subpoena to testify in a House committee's investigation of Jeffrey Epstein even as Republican lawmakers prepare contempt of Congress proceedings against them.

The Clintons, in a letter released on social media, slammed the House Oversight probe as "legally invalid" and wrote that the chair of the House Oversight Committee, Republican Rep. James Comer, is on the cusp of a process "literally designed to result in our imprisonment."

"We will forcefully defend ourselves," wrote the Clintons, who are Democrats. They accused Comer of allowing other former officials to provide written statements about Epstein to the committee, while selectively enforcing subpoenas against them.

The intensifying clash adds another dimension to the fight over Epstein, raising new questions about the limits of congressional power to compel testimony. It also comes when Republicans are grappling with the Justice Department's delayed release of the Epstein files after a bipartisan push for their release.

Possible contempt of Congress proceedings
Comer said he'll begin contempt of Congress proceedings next week. It potentially starts a complicated and politically messy process that Congress has rarely reached for and could result in prosecution from the Justice Depart-



Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton listen during the state funeral for former President Jimmy Carter at Washington National Cathedral in Washington, Jan. 9, 2025.

ment.

"No one's accusing the Clintons of any wrongdoing. We just have questions," Comer told reporters after Bill Clinton, a onetime Epstein friend, did not show up for a scheduled deposition at House offices Tuesday.

He added, "Anyone would admit they spent a lot of time together."

Clinton has never been accused of wrongdoing in connection with Epstein but had a well-documented friendship with the wealthy financier throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. Republicans have zeroed in on that relationship as they wrestle with demands for a full accounting of Epstein's wrongdoing.

"We have tried to give you the little information we have. We've done so because Mr. Epstein's crimes were horrific," the Clintons wrote in the letter.

Epstein was arrested in 2019

on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges. He killed himself in a New York jail cell while awaiting trial.

Subpoenas for former presidents

Multiple former presidents have voluntarily testified before Congress, but none has been compelled to do so. That history was invoked by President Donald Trump in 2022, between his first and second terms, when he faced a subpoena by the House committee investigating the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, riot by a mob of his supporters at the U.S. Capitol.

Trump's lawyers cited decades of legal precedent they said shielded an ex-president from being ordered to appear before Congress. The committee ultimately withdrew its subpoena.

Comer also indicated that the Oversight committee would not attempt to com-

pel testimony from Trump about Epstein, saying that it could not force a sitting president to testify.

Trump, a Republican, was also friends with Epstein. He has said he cut off that relationship before Epstein was accused of sexual abuse. Comer cast the subpoena for the Clintons as a bipartisan effort.

But when a subcommittee of the Oversight panel initiated its overall investigation into Epstein in August, it adopted the subpoenas for the Clintons without allowing Democrats to cast individual votes.

The Justice Department also has not completely fulfilled the committee's subpoena for its files on Epstein.

Lawmakers want the Epstein files

Meanwhile, the congressional co-sponsors of legislation that forced the public release of investigative documents in the

sex trafficking probe of Epstein and British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell asked a New York judge in a letter to appoint a neutral expert to oversee release of the materials. The letter, dated Jan. 8, was delivered to the judge Monday night.

U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, a California Democrat, and Rep. Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican, told U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer they had "urgent and grave concerns" that the Justice Department has failed to comply with the Epstein Files Transparency Act, which required the files to be released last month. They said they believed "criminal violations have taken place" in the release process.

Engelmayer presides over the Maxwell case. Maxwell, a former Epstein girlfriend, is serving a 20-year prison sentence after her 2021 sex trafficking conviction for recruiting girls and women to be abused by Epstein and for sometimes joining in the abuse. Last month, Maxwell sought to set aside her conviction, saying new evidence had emerged proving constitutional violations spoiled her trial.

Justice Department officials, who did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday, have said the files' release was slowed by redactions required to protect the identities of abuse victims. In their letter, Khanna and Massie wrote that the Department of Justice's release of 12,000 documents out of more than 2 million documents being reviewed was a "flagrant violation" of the law's release requirements and had caused "serious trauma to survivors." □

EPA says it will stop calculating health care savings from key air pollution rules

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency says it will stop calculating how much money is saved in health care costs avoided and deaths prevented from air pollution rules that curb two deadly pollutants. The change means the EPA will focus rules for fine particulate matter and ozone only on the cost to industry, part of a broader realignment under President Donald Trump toward a business-friendly approach that has included the rollback of multiple policies meant to safeguard human health and the environment and slow climate change.

The agency said in a statement late Monday that it "absolutely remains committed to our core mission of protecting human health and the environment" but "will not be monetizing the impacts at this time." The EPA will continue to estimate costs to businesses to comply with the rules and will continue "ongoing work to refine its economic methodologies" of pollution rules, spokeswoman Brigit Hirsch said. Environmental and public health advocates called the agency's action a dangerous abdication of one of its core missions. "The EPA's mandate is to protect public health, not to ignore the science in order to eliminate clean air safeguards that save lives," said John Walke, a senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council. He called the change in how public health benefits are calculated "reckless, dangerous, and illegal," adding: "By pretending real health benefits do not count, EPA wants to open the door for industry to foul the air, while communities and families pay the price in asthma attacks, heart disease and premature deaths." The change in how the EPA calculates health benefits was first reported



Emissions rise from the smokestacks at the Jeffrey Energy Center coal power plant as the sun sets, near Emmett, Kansas, Sept. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

by The New York Times.

The move is part of the EPA's broader change in approach

The move comes as the Trump administration is seeking to abandon a rule that sets tough standards for deadly soot pollution, arguing that the Biden administration did not have authority to set the tighter standard on pollution from tailpipes, smokestacks and other industrial sources. In a court filing in November, the EPA said the Biden-era rule was done "without the rigorous, step-wise process that Congress required" and was therefore unlawful.

The EPA said it continues to recognize the "clear and well-documented benefits" of reducing fine particulate matter, also known as PM2.5, and ozone.

"Not monetizing DOES NOT equal not considering or not valuing the human health impact," Hirsch said in an emailed statement, saying the agency under Administrator Lee Zeldin remains committed to protecting human health.

Since the EPA's creation more than 50 years ago, Republican and Democratic administrations have used different estimates to assign monetary value to a human life in cost-benefit analyses. Under former

President Joe Biden, the EPA estimated that its proposed rule on PM2.5 would prevent up to 4,500 premature deaths and 290,000 lost workdays by 2032. For every \$1 spent on reducing PM2.5, the agency said, there could be as much as \$77 in health benefits. But the Trump administration contends that these estimates are misleading. By failing to include ranges or other qualifying statements, EPA's use of specific estimate "leads the public to believe the Agency has a better understanding of the monetized impacts of exposure to PM2.5 and ozone than in reality," the agency said in an economic impact analysis for the new NOx rule. □

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Immigrant detainee at 'Alligator Alcatraz' agrees to leave U.S., asks that lawsuit be dismissed

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — One of the three court challenges to an immigration detention center in the Florida Everglades has ended after the immigrant detainee who filed the lawsuit agreed to be removed from the United States and will be out of the country soon, his attorneys said.

The detainee at the facility dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz" asked that his case in federal court in Fort Myers be dismissed Monday.

"Petitioner is no longer detained at Alligator Alcatraz, he has formally agreed to be removed, and he will soon have left the United States," his attorneys wrote in a court motion. One of his attorneys, Spencer Amdur of the American Civil Liberties Union, said by phone Tuesday that the detainee, referred to only as M.A. in court documents, would be returning to Chile.

The lawsuit claimed that immigration was a federal issue, and Florida agencies and private contractors hired by the state had no authority to operate the facility under federal law. Detainees who entered the



A loader holds a sign reading "Alligator Alcatraz" in its bucket as workers install it at the entrance to a new migrant detention facility at Dade-Collier Training and Transition facility, July 3, 2025, in Ochopee, Fla.

Associated Press

facility disappeared from the normal detainee tracking system and had difficulty accessing legal help, the lawsuit said.

Florida has led other states in constructing facilities to support President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. Besides the Everglades facility, which received its first detainees in July, Florida has opened an immigration detention center in the northeastern part of the state and is look-

ing at opening a third facility in the Panhandle. M.A. is married to a U.S. citizen and has five stepchildren who are U.S. citizens. He entered the United States in 2018 on a visa and later applied for asylum. Before his arrest last July, he had a work permit, a Social Security card and a driver's license, according to court documents. After his arrest, but before he was sent to the Everglades facility, officers pressured him to sign

an English-only form that he didn't understand but was later told it was a voluntary removal form, according to court documents.

During his time at the Everglades detention facility, he was twice hospitalized and put in a wheelchair because of a condition in which he was unable to feel his legs. "M.A. entered the facility able to walk, but he is now in a wheelchair," his lawsuit said.

M.A.'s case was one of

three federal lawsuits challenging practices at the immigration detention center that was built last summer at a remote airstrip in the Florida Everglades by the administration of Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.

In a separate case, a federal judge in Miami last summer ordered the facility to wind down operations over two months because officials had failed to do a review of the detention center's environmental impact. But an appellate court panel put that decision on hold for the time being, allowing the facility to stay open. In the third lawsuit, detainees were seeking a ruling that would ensure that they have access to confidential communications with their attorneys. During an online meeting Tuesday, attorneys for the detainees and lawyers for the state and federal government defendants outlined plans for a hearing at the end of the month over a request for a preliminary injunction. ACLU attorneys said they would likely call former detainees at the facility now living outside the United States who would testify remotely as witnesses. □

Ex-Navy SEAL convicted of planning to fire explosives at police during San Diego 'No Kings' rally

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A jury has convicted a former Navy SEAL with neo-Nazi beliefs of transporting fireworks across state lines with plans to shoot explosives at police during last year's "No Kings" protest in San Diego, federal prosecutors said.

Following his conviction on Monday, Gregory Vandenberg was ordered held in custody until his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been scheduled. He faces up to 10 years in prison, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

During a five-day trial in Albuquerque, New Mexico, prosecutors outlined Vandenberg's intention to travel from El Paso, Texas,

to California to injure law enforcement officers at the June 14 rally.

Investigators found messages on his phone indicating he was angry with President Donald Trump because he believed the U.S.

government is controlled by Israel and the Jewish people, according to prosecutors. His home screen on his phone displayed a picture of the Taliban flag. FBI agents testified that they found clothing and

paraphernalia in Vandenberg's car with anti-Israel slogans and neo-Nazi symbols, including a flag for the militant group the Caucasian Front and a message in Latin saying "Judea must be destroyed."

Vandenberg, 49, stopped at a travel center near Lordsburg, New Mexico, on June 12 and purchased six large mortar fireworks as well as 72 M-150 firecrackers, which are designed to sound like gunfire. He told the store clerk that he had significant knowledge of explosives and prior special operations forces experience, and he outlined his intentions to harm police at the upcoming demonstration, prosecutors said.

Vandenberg, who had no stable employment and lived in his car, urged the clerk to join him, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office. While in the store, he wore a T-shirt with the word "Amalek" on the front, which he said he designed specifically to mean "destroyer of Jews," the statement said.

Store employees wrote down his license plate and contacted authorities. Vandenberg was arrested June 13 while sleeping in his car at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. He told FBI agents he was traveling for work, despite being unemployed, and visiting friends in Phoenix, prosecutors said. □



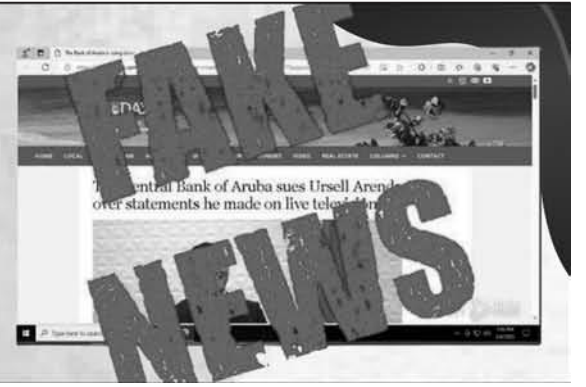
This photo provided by U.S. Attorney's Office shows clothing displaying antisemitic, anti-Israel, and extremist symbols that were found in former Navy SEAL Seal Gregory Vandenberg vehicle by authorities.

Associated Press

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Greenland official calls it 'unfathomable' that the U.S. is considering taking over the island

By EMMA BURROWS, GEIR MOULSON and AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

NUUK, Greenland (AP) — A senior Greenland government official said Tuesday it's "unfathomable" that

the United States is discussing taking over a NATO ally and urged the Trump administration to listen to voices from the Arctic island's people. Naaja Nathanielsen, Greenland's minister for business and mineral

resources, said people in Greenland are "very, very worried" over the administration's desire for control of Greenland. She spoke a day before a key meeting in Washington between foreign ministers

of the semi-autonomous Danish territory and Denmark and top U.S. officials, at a time of increased tensions between the allies over the stepped-up U.S. rhetoric. "People are not sleeping, children are afraid, and it just fills everything these days. And we can't really understand it," Nathanielsen said at a meeting with lawmakers in Britain's Parliament.

Earlier, a Danish government official confirmed that Denmark provided U.S. forces in the east Atlantic with support last week as they intercepted an oil tanker for alleged violations of U.S. sanctions.

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly on the sensitive matter and spoke on the condition of anonymity, declined to provide details about what the support entailed.

The U.S. interception in the

Atlantic capped a weeks-long pursuit of the tanker that began in the Caribbean Sea as the U.S. imposed a blockade in the waters of Venezuela aimed at capturing sanctioned vessels coming in and out of the South American country.

The White House and Pentagon did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Danish support for the U.S. operation was first reported by Newsmax. U.S. Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio will meet with the foreign ministers of Denmark and Greenland on Wednesday at the White House to discuss Trump's interest in acquiring Greenland, according to a U.S. official and two sources familiar with the plans who spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting has not yet been formally announced. □



Naaja Nathanielsen, Greenland's Minister for Business, speaks during a press conference in the Houses of Parliament in London, England, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026.

Associated Press

Czech Prime Minister Babiš faces confidence vote as government shifts Ukraine policy

PRAGUE (AP) — The Czech Republic's new government led by populist Prime Minister Andrej Babiš was set to face a mandatory confidence vote in Parliament over its agenda aimed at steering the country away from supporting Ukraine and rejecting some key European Union policies.

The debate in the 200-seat lower house of Parliament, where the coalition has a majority of 108 seats, began Tuesday. Every new administration must win the vote to govern. Babiš, previously prime minister in two governments from 2017-2021, and his ANO,

or YES, movement, won big in the country's October election and formed a majority coalition with two small political groups, the Freedom and Direct Democracy anti-migrant party and the right-wing Motorists for Themselves. The parties, which share admiration for U.S. President Donald Trump, created a 16-member Cabinet. "I'd like to make it clear that the Czech Republic and Czech citizens will be first for our government," Babiš said in his speech in the lower house.

The political comeback by Babiš and his new alliance with two small government

newcomers are expected to significantly redefine the nation's foreign and domestic policies.

Unlike the previous pro-Western government, Babiš has rejected any financial aid for Ukraine and guarantees for EU loans to the country fighting the Russian invasion, joining the ranks of Viktor Orbán of Hungary and Robert Fico of Slovakia. But his government would not abandon a Czech initiative that managed to acquire some 1.8 million much-needed artillery shells for Ukraine only last year on markets outside the EU on condition the Czechs would only

administer it but would not contribute money. The Freedom party sees no future for the Czechs in the

EU and NATO, and wants to expel most of 380,000 Ukrainian refugees in the country. □



Czech Republic's Prime Minister Andrej Babiš departs after a meeting of the 'Coalition of the Willing' on Ukraine at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026.

Associated Press

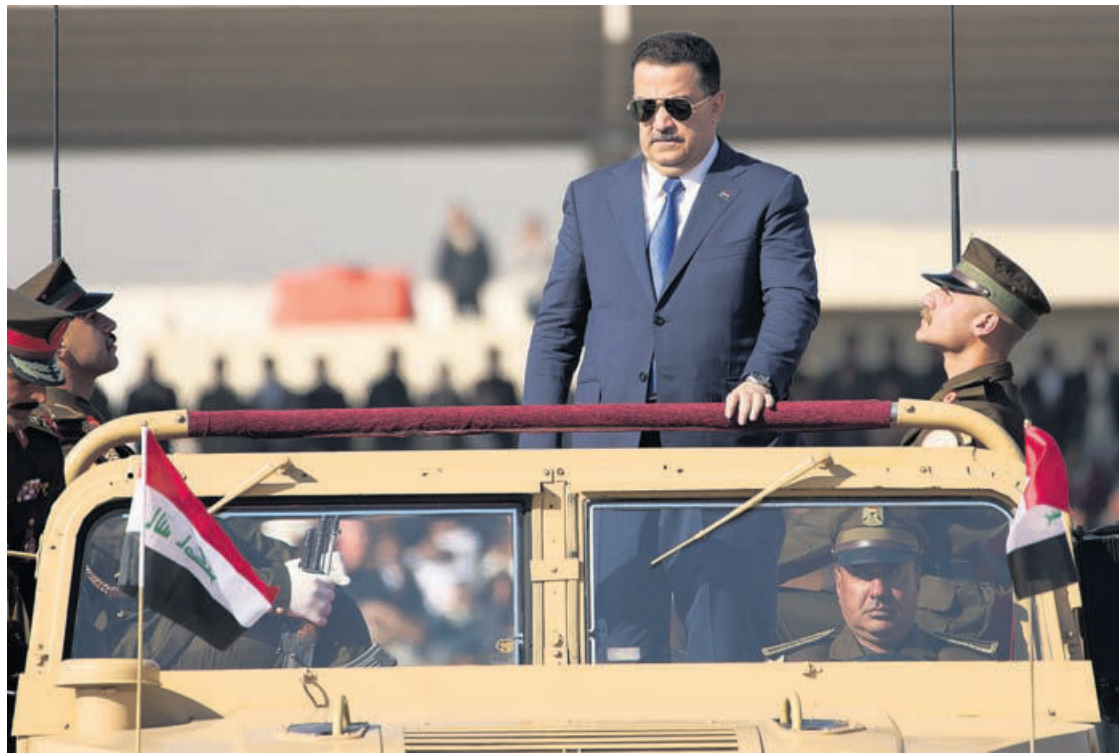
Iraq's prime minister steps aside for rival in post-election wrangling over government

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's caretaker Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, whose bloc won the largest share of seats in November's parliamentary elections, has stepped aside to clear the field for a rival, former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, two Iraqi officials said Tuesday.

The officials, a senior leader in al-Sudani's Reconstruction and Development Coalition and a government official, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter. Al-Sudani's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Al-Sudani's Reconstruction and Development Coalition won 46 seats in the 329-seat parliament, while the coalition led by al-Maliki won 30 seats. Both men had sought the backing of the Coordination Framework, a coalition of Iran-backed Shiite parties that brought al-Sudani to power in 2022. The two Iraqi officials said the Coordination



Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, center, rides in a Humvee during the Army Day celebrations in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026.

Associated Press

Framework was unable to choose between the top contenders and left it to the candidates themselves to decide. A meeting between al-Sudani and al-Maliki agreed that al-Sudani would step aside in favor of al-Maliki, they said.

The incoming government

will face major economic and political challenges. The most contentious is the future of the country's armed groups, particularly the Popular Mobilization Forces, a coalition of mostly Shiite militias that formed to fight the Islamic State group as it rampaged across Iraq

more than a decade ago. It was formally placed under the control of the Iraqi military in 2016, but in practice still operates with significant autonomy. The U.S. has been pushing for Iraq to disarm Iran-backed groups, a difficult proposition, given the political power that

many of them hold.

Judiciary joins the debate over weapons

As politicians wrangle over government formation, Iraq's judiciary has waded into the debate on the issue of non-state weapons. In a speech earlier this month, Judge Faiq Zidan, head of Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council, said there were no longer a need for weapons outside the Iraqi state following the defeat of terrorism. He said that a functioning state depends on respect for the law, unified decision-making and "exclusive state control of weapons."

Some political forces welcomed Zidan's statement as a step toward strengthening state institutions and consolidating government authority, but armed groups pushed back against it.

The Iraqi Resistance Coordination group, which includes powerful armed factions such as Kataib Hezbollah, Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada and Asaib Ahl al-Haq, issued a statement rejecting any discussion about their weapons. □

The BBC seeks to dismiss Trump's \$10B defamation lawsuit in a Florida court

By JILL LAWLESS and BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The BBC plans to ask a court to throw out U.S. President Donald Trump's \$10 billion lawsuit against the British broadcaster, court papers show.

Trump filed a lawsuit in December over the way the BBC edited a speech he gave on Jan. 6, 2021. The claim, filed in a Florida federal court, seeks \$5 billion in damages for defamation and \$5 billion for unfair trade practices.

The speech took place before some of Trump's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol as Congress was poised to certify President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 election that Trump falsely alleged was

stolen from him.

The BBC had broadcast the documentary titled "Trump: A Second Chance?" days before the 2024 U.S. presidential election. It spliced together three quotes from two sections of the 2021 speech, delivered almost an hour apart, into what appeared to be one quote in which Trump urged supporters to march with him and "fight like hell." Among the parts cut out was a section where Trump said he wanted supporters to demonstrate peacefully.

The broadcaster has apologized to Trump over the edit of the Jan. 6 speech. But the publicly funded BBC rejects claims it defamed him. The furor triggered the resignations of the BBC's top executive

and its head of news.

Papers filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Miami say the BBC will file a motion to dismiss the case on March 17 on the basis that the court lacks jurisdiction and Trump failed to state a claim.

The broadcaster's lawyers will argue that the BBC did not create, produce or broadcast the documentary in Florida and that Trump's claim the documentary was available in the U.S. on streaming service BritBox is not true.

It will also argue that Trump has failed to "plausibly allege" the BBC acted with malice in airing the documentary.

Attorney Charles Tobin, for the BBC, said Trump can't prove actual damages because he won re-



Pedestrian walks outside the BBC Headquarters in London, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025.

Associated Press

election by a commanding margin, and carried Florida by 13-point margin, better than his 2016 and 2020 performances. He said the documentary also couldn't have harmed his reputation because it aired after Trump was indicted by a federal grand jury over alleged efforts to overturn the 2020 election, including allegations he "directed the crowd in

front of him to go to the Capitol."

The BBC is asking the court to postpone discovery the pretrial process in which parties must turn over documents and other information pending a decision on the motion to dismiss. The discovery process could require the BBC to hand over reams of emails and other materials related to its coverage of Trump. □

Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort announces completion of renovation project, unveiling transformed rooms, amenities and guest experiences

Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort is proud to announce the completion of its comprehensive renovation project, unveiling refreshed guestrooms, enhanced amenities, an elevated arrival experience and a brand-new room category. This milestone marks an exciting new chapter in the iconic boutique resort's continued evolution.

At the forefront of the renovation is the debut of the resort's new Grand Studios, now the most premium studio category at Amsterdam Manor. Located in the signature tower corners, these thoughtfully designed accommodations offer stunning partial ocean views and feature luxurious touches such as a spacious freestanding bathtub positioned for scenic relaxation or dual rain shower heads for a shared spa-like experience, creating an elevated retreat for guests seeking additional comfort and style.



The renovation also includes the complete transformation of 12 of the resort's former Standard Manor Studios into fully reimagined Superior Studios. These upgraded accommodations offer expanded layouts, larger private balconies with enhanced partial ocean views, king-size beds, spacious bathrooms with walk-in rain showers, and modernized kitchenettes outfitted with contemporary amenities. Warm, modern décor and hand-selected locally inspired artwork further elevate the atmosphere, while an updated exterior façade complements the resort's timeless ambiance.

To enhance convenience for travelers, Amsterdam Manor has introduced two new Courtesy Shower Rooms, a thoughtful amenity for guests with early arrivals or late departures. Each space features a walk-in shower, vanity, toilet, Aruba Aloe products and fresh towels, allowing guests to refresh before or after their stay with ease.

Guests will also experience an upgraded welcome with the addition of a cathedral-style porte-cochère, providing added shade, comfort and convenience upon arrival. A dedicated luggage storage area further streamlines both check-in and



check-out, ensuring a seamless and comfortable guest journey.

"These updates reflect our passion for creating an exceptional experience for every guest who walks through our doors," said Jurgen van Schaijk, Owner & Managing Director of Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort. "We have thoughtfully enhanced our accommodations and amenities while preserving the warm, family-owned charm that defines Amsterdam Manor. We are incredibly proud of this transformation and look forward to welcoming guests back to a refreshed and elevated version of their home away from home."

With earlier renovations to the resort's suite categories—including the One-Bedroom, Two-Bedroom, Honeymoon and Penthouse Suites—completed in 2024, and the introduction of new premium offerings now finalized, the resort has fully revitalized all 72 guestrooms and enhanced key ame-



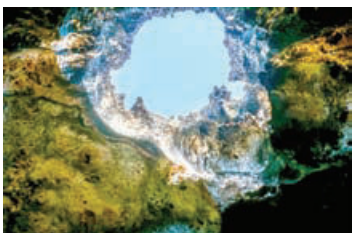
nities. Throughout the renovation, Amsterdam Manor has remained committed to preserving the inviting spirit, intimate hospitality and Dutch Colonial architecture that have made the property a standout on Eagle Beach for more than 35 years.

Located just steps from one of the world's most celebrated beaches, Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort offers elevated comfort, thoughtful design and warm, personal service. The completed renovation ushers in a new era for the resort, providing couples, families and solo travelers with an unforgettable and authentically Aruban experience.

Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the

hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center.

For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

The Lighthouse



No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top.

In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its

light.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout—as it might get a little windy and rough—you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. □



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Visit the island's hidden natural pools



(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga

(Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4×4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and

enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral cliff floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there

is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue

little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours. □

Blackstone Beach



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba; the stones that cover the beach and the shape of it has been crafted for thousands of years through volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □

Share your Aruba memories with us!

(Oranjestad)—We at Aruba Today love to hear from our readers. This is why we love our segment “Aruba to me”, where we ask our readers to send in their message and pictures sharing what Aruba means to them.

What we also love is creating and sharing memories. This is why we would like to invite you you, our lovely reader, to share your fond memories on the island with us. It could be a photo from the first time you visited island to the pictures you took at that Carnival Parade you attended last week. All is welcome!

Tell us your stories and let us give you a shout-out in our next issue! □



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Carnival 72 is complete with its Queens!

(Oranjestad)—One of the most colorful and vibrant seasons of our island has begun: our Carnival 72. This is where our beautiful culture shines, and the great amount of talent across all generations takes center stage.

Over the past few days, several events connected to Carnival 72 have taken place. Among these events were the various costume elections, where we get to know our queens. The final election has taken place, and now Carnival 72 is complete with its Children's Queen and Adult Queen!

Today we share the results of the elections.

Kids category

The Pay.aw Children Queen title went to Amelie Ly-Diane Koolman from the Noord district. Best Speech went to Cielo Joseenne



Lara Benitez of Gucci Dancers Aruba.

The award for Best Show went to Amelie Ly-Diane Koolman, who also won the award for Best Carnival Dress.

Second Runner Up went to Alina Wever of TOB Carnival Group, with Cielo Joseenne Lara Benitez of Gucci Dancers Aruba receiving the 1st Runner Up award.

The title of Aruba Children's Carnival Queen 2026 went to Amelie Ly-Diane Koolman.

Adult Queen category

The Pay.aw Mrs. Carnival title went to Ashantee Martus of HEPA Dance Society, who also won the Best Speech award.

Best Show went to Gabriela Croes of TOB Carnival Group, who also received the award for Best Carnival Dress.

Second Runner Up went to Mileicha

Barry of Dushi Carnival Group, with Ashantee Martus receiving the 1st Runner Up award.

The title of Aruba Carnival Queen 2026 went to Gabriela Croes of TOB Carnival Group.

A huge congratulations to all the winners and participants of these elections, and now yes, the time has arrived to enjoy our beloved Carnival with all our Queens!

Youth category

The Pay.aw Youth Queen winner was Anwizyann Geerman of Hepa DMC Society and Filomena College MAVO, and the winner of Best Speech was Kyra Jong of Dushi Carnival Group.

For Best Show, the winner was Brooke Lockhart, and Best Carnival Dress went to Anwizyann Geerman of Hepa DMC Society and Filomena College MAVO.

Second Runner Up went to Anwizyann Geerman, and 1st Runner Up went to Brooke Lockhart of Kiwanis Builders Club MPN and TOB Carnival Group.

The title of Aruba Youth Carnival Queen 2026 went to Kyra Jong of Dushi Carnival Group.

Mrs. Carnival category

The Pay.aw Mrs. Carnival title went to Marylain Ras of TOB Carnival Group and HOH, who also won Best Speech, Best Show, and Best Carnival Dress.



Second Runner Up went to Carolina Chiquinquirá Croes Martinez of Gucci Dancers Aruba, and 1st Runner Up went to Xialainne Gennilee Ras of EPB and Royal Carnival Group.

The title of Mrs. Carnival Aruba 2026 went to Marylain Ras of TOB Carnival Group and HOH. □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode 337 – CCCXXXVII

Reading Aruba's Oldest Stories Written in Stone

Long before Aruba had roads, churches, or even a name, its first inhabitants left messages behind—etched and painted into stone. Scattered across the island, hidden in caves and cradled by wind-worn boulders, these ancient markings still speak to us. They are Aruba's rock art, among the island's most powerful and least understood cultural treasures.

In this new episode we journey back thousands of years to explore the native Aruban rock art that continues to shape our understanding of the island's earliest society.

Aruba's rock art is generally divided into two categories: petroglyphs and pictographs. Petroglyphs are images carved or pecked directly into exposed rock surfaces, while pictographs are painted, applying natural pigments—most commonly red ochre, but also black, white, or yellow dyes. These pigments were applied by finger, and in some cases, with brushes made out of animal hair or plant fibers.

To date, archaeologists have documented 301 pictographs and petroglyphs, an extraordinary number for such a small island. These are not random decorations. They are symbols of belief, ceremony, identity, and survival. Petroglyphs in particular are considered powerful cultural expressions, deeply connected to sacred landscapes where rituals and traditional ceremonies once took place. Every image matters—not only for what it depicts, but for where it appears. Context is essential; location is meaning.

One of Aruba's most remarkable concentrations of rock art can be found in Arikok National Park, home to some of the island's most beautiful and significant pictograph collections. Research conducted within the park revealed something extraordinary: four clusters of drawings aligned almost perfectly along a north-south axis spanning approximately 415 meters. While some drawings may appear as simple points or



lines—perhaps intentionally minimal—when each distinct representation is counted, researchers estimate between 270 and 331 individual drawings spread across 17 sites.

In archaeological terms, drawings located within tens of meters of one another are considered part of the same site, and sites within a 500-meter radius forms a cluster. These groupings suggest intentional placement and planning by ancient artists and spiritual leaders, reinforcing the idea that the rock art was part of a broader religious or ceremonial landscape rather than isolated expressions.

Another exceptional site lies at Weburi, in Piedra Plat. The name "Weburi" is said to mean the place where boulders standing in the blowing wind, a fitting description for this dramatic location. The site can be reached by traveling north from Hooiberg, Aruba's iconic Haystack Hill. After climbing a few steps, explorers can distin-

guish these boulders in what northern direction, you can guide yourself through a nature walk toward a cluster of unusually round boulders.

Within one of these boulders, erosion has formed a hollow chamber with a west-facing entrance. Finding it can be challenging—but once inside, the reward is unforgettable. The interior walls are alive with red-pigmented drawings, covering the stone in a silent yet deeply moving display. The space feels intimate, almost ceremonial, as if the artists had intended their work to be seen only by those who truly sought it.

Through its work, Etnia Nativa continues to share this island knowledge, emphasizing the value and vulnerability of Aruba's archaeological sites, rock formations, and historical monuments. Their mission extends beyond preservation—it encompasses respect for endemic flora and fauna, sustainable waste management, and awareness of how population growth impacts the natural environment and its historic value.

In a world that moves fast, these ancient drawings remind us to slow down, to simply listen, absorb and appreciate the calming rhythm of the ocean, the morning calls of nature, and perhaps most precious of all—the sound of silence.

We Arubans embrace our stones bolder heritage since many of them served as shelters against the elements, reunion spots, Aruba's first storytellers and social centers harboring Rock art that are still speaking to us. The question is: are we listening? □



Step beyond the beaches and resorts to engage with the heart and soul of Aruba's heritage visit Etnia Nativa, by appointment only:
WhatsApp +297 592 2702
etniana03@gmail.com

Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost

Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mango's hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year- round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often

used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind

A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system.

Concomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Concomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help



ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year- round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruba is Sopi di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Thesaurus

1 A heap author

6 Small 44 Beholds

fastener 45 Winter

10 Uncon- gliders

trolled fear

11 Dutch

bloom

13 Fury

14 Yoga

pose

15 Zero

16 Boxing

great

Muham-

mad

18 Fellows

19 Measuring

by walking

22 Make a

choice

23 Smell

24 Opium

flower

27 Impas-

sioned

28 Beige

29 Sewing

aid

30 Making a

short visit

35 Scot's cap

36 Pants part

37 Way off

38 Argentina-

set

musical

40 Fill with

joy

42 Varnish

ingredient

DOWN

1 Stretches

over

2 "Be quiet!"

3 Trig topic

4 Game

cube

5 Small but

full of fight

6 Laundry

problem

7 Greek

conso-

nants

8 Stylish

9 Want

badly

12 Cook in a

skillet

17 Ignited

20 Batter's

high hit

21 Leaving

minor

24 Annoy

33 Destined

25 Musical

34 Worries

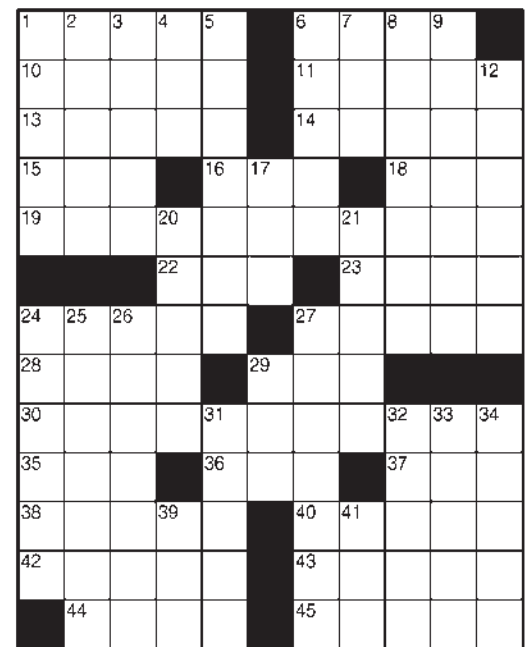
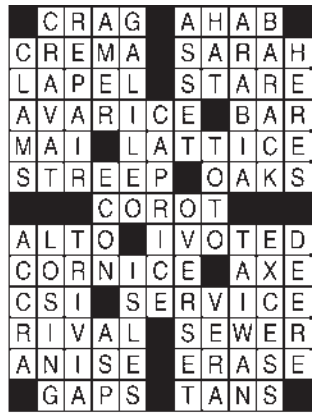
39 Suit

accessory

41 "Very

funny!"

online



1-23

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-23 CRYPTOQUOTE

UQL TGMENHNL TN XQPN

(XCJN M SQO QL M VN), CE'P

MXTMSP QOL PN XU TN UCYI CY

EGN PNM. — N.N. BOVV CYFP

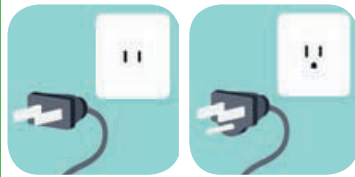
Cryptoquote: HOW WONDERFUL IT IS THAT NOBODY NEED WAIT A SINGLE MOMENT BEFORE STARTING TO IMPROVE THE WORLD. — ANNE FRANK

Cruise ship Schedule: Jan. 13 - 18 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	13	CARNIVAL MAGIC	07.00	16.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	C	1
		SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	14	ROTTERDAM	08.00	17.00	B	1
		BRITANNIA	07.00	18.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	15	COSTA PACIFICA	07.00	22.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VENEZIA	09.00	22.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	11.00	20.00	I	1
SAT	17	STAR PRIDE	06.00	16.00	B	1
		ZUIDERDAM	08.00	17.00	C	1
		AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	I	1
SUN	18	MARELLA DISCOVERY	08.00	20.00	B	1
		OCEANIA INSIGNIA	11.30	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

						9		2
				3			4	
		5			4		1	
		6						
2			6	9		1		8
	3	8	4					
				1		8	2	4
5			3					
6	1		9	4			3	

Difficulty: ★★★

1/14

Answer to previous puzzle

9	1	5	4	7	3	6	8	2
7	4	6	2	8	5	9	3	1
8	3	2	1	9	6	5	7	4
4	5	3	7	1	8	2	6	9
2	9	7	6	3	4	1	5	8
6	8	1	5	2	9	7	4	3
1	7	4	8	6	2	3	9	5
3	6	8	9	5	1	4	2	7
5	2	9	3	4	7	8	1	6

Difficulty: ★★

1/13

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AI Mode



Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai speaks at a Google I/O event in Mountain View, Calif., Tuesday, May 20, 2025.
Associated Press

Google's corporate parent joins \$4 trillion club as investors continue to bet on AI breakthroughs

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer

Google parent Alphabet Inc. on Monday became the fourth Big Tech powerhouse to be valued at \$4 trillion, a once seemingly unfathomable milestone that's become more like a rite of passage amid an artificial intelligence arms race.

Alphabet reached the threshold just four months after Google dodged the U.S. government's attempt to break up its internet empire following a ruling last year that branded its ubiquitous search engine an illegal monopoly. In an effort to prevent further abuses, a federal judge overseeing the case ordered a shake-up that investors widely interpreted as a slap on the wrist, resulting in a 57% increase in Alphabet's stock price since then that has created an additional \$1.4 trillion in shareholder wealth. The rapid run-up thrust Alphabet into a \$4 trillion club that has previously welcomed computer chipmaker Nvidia, which became the first to cross the barrier in July. Both Apple and Microsoft also surpassed market values of \$4 trillion last year, but they have fallen back mid worries that the spending spree on AI will turn into a bubble that bursts. Nvidia's market value briefly topped \$5 trillion in late October, before backtracking as the AI bubble fears also exacted a toll on its stock price because its chipsets are needed to power the technology. □

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Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

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Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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Fire Dept.	115
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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
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AID FOUNDATIONS

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Caya G.F.



Snoop Dogg's NBA analyst role underscores why his on-air presence and global appeal keeps growing

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Snoop Dogg arrived at Intuit Dome hours before tipoff, long before most fans filled the arena and even before some players.

Dressed in a gray suit and black turtleneck, a diamond-encrusted Peacock pendant resting on his chest and purple Chuck Taylor sneakers with gold laces nodding to his lifelong Los Angeles Lakers allegiance, Snoop didn't rush. He didn't posture. He waited for his moment to shine as an NBA analyst alongside Reggie Miller and Terry Gannon for Peacock's recent Golden State Warriors at Los Angeles Clippers broadcast during the second half.

With an AP reporter trailing him through the arena for an all-access, behind-the-scenes look at his preparation including time in the green room ahead of the broadcast Snoop made it clear that this wasn't a



NBA analyst, Snoop Dogg, right, appears with Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, center, and former NBA player and lead game analyst for NBC Sports, Reggie Miller, following the team's NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors, Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press

cameo.

"I don't believe NBC would have gave me this opportunity if they thought I was coming in there playing games," said Snoop, who won over global audiences during the Paris Olympics in 2024. "It's not so much about me. It's so much about what the game is needing right now."

In recent months, Snoop underscored his ease in live, unscripted settings across major TV stages. He continued his work on NBC's "The Voice," performed during Netflix's Christmas Day NFL broadcast, went viral at the Snoop Dogg Arizona Bowl and presented and did interviews at Sunday's Golden Globes where Amy Poehler and Stephen Graham praised his presence. That visibility has coincided with a deepening relationship with NBCUniversal, which continues to expand his role across sports and entertainment with next month's Milano-Cortina Winter Olympics, including NBA coverage.

Before opening tip of the Jan. 5 game, Snoop sat in production meetings and joined the coaches' meetings with Steve Kerr and Tyronn Lue. He lingered near the Golden State Warriors'

locker room, occasionally dancing as his own music blared from inside, patiently waiting to interview Warriors star guard Stephen Curry a couple hours before the game.

Snoop's approach resonated with the players he covered.

"He can find his way anywhere in any environment," Curry said. "It was cool to see all the different versions of Snoop."

How Snoop makes his presence felt on the biggest stages

Curry has seen Snoop's ability to move comfortably between worlds long before this night. The sharpshooting guard recalled seeing Snoop around Team USA during the Paris Olympics, where he blended seamlessly into the basketball environment while connecting easily with players away from the court.

"He caught me off guard at the beginning because he gave me three really straightforward basketball questions," Curry said of Snoop's Warriors-Clippers pregame interview. "Then I heard he got to it on the broadcast. ... He was a great addition."

Whether Snoop is on a global broadcast, major

streamer or a sideline, he reads the room in real time. That feel showed up again at the Arizona Bowl, when he snagged a deep kickoff mid-interview, losing a shoe but securing the ball. It was a spontaneous moment that quickly went viral and showed why he continues to resonate in live settings. Moments like that help explain why Snoop's presence keeps widening. He's set to be part of NBC's coverage of the upcoming Winter Olympics, further extending a presence that now spans sports, entertainment and generations of viewers.

Miller, who played 18 years with the NBA's Indiana Pacers, said Snoop's versatility and seriousness stood out even behind the camera.

"He's authentic," Miller said. "Questions that he asked in the coaches meetings, stepping up and asking informed questions of Steve Kerr and Ty Lue. He could have just sat back and listened. No, he's getting his hands dirty."

Gannon echoed those sentiments.

"It's not like he's just showing up and saying 'I'm here,'" he said. "He put in the work and effort. The broadcast was seamless because of that."

How Snoop built a bridge between the game and a broader audience

Snoop said he studied legendary broadcasters, particularly the late Chick Hearn, who was the play-by-play announcer for more than 40 years with the Lakers. The rapper viewed his role as someone who understands basketball deeply but speaks from outside the traditional broadcast lineage.

"I represent the average Joe, despite being me being a well-known celebrity," he said. "The NBA has moved forward to where it deserves to have people like me who understands the game, know the game and can speak to the game and also bring new viewers." Snoop's perspective showed up immediately once he went on air.

He called out the Warriors' Draymond Green for taking and missing too many 3-pointers, while praising his ability to function as a point-forward. He noted Curry's ability to play through an ankle injury in the third quarter. He labeled on-court chemistry "cookies and cream like they about to open up a cookie shop," dubbed Curry "Stephisticated" and punctuated a scoring burst with "two-piece chicken nuggets."

When Warriors coach Steve Kerr was ejected after disagreeing with referees on a goaltending call, Snoop's bold personality cut through the moment, shouting "Inglewood" as the crowd roared inside the Intuit Dome, which is located in Inglewood, California.

"When the lights are on, that's when I shine the brightest," Snoop said.

What's next for Snoop?

Snoop said he'd welcome more opportunities to call NBA games, viewing the analyst role as a natural extension of a career built on curiosity and evolution. He's eager to immerse himself in the Winter Olympics, where he'll once again be an NBC correspondent and join Team USA as an honorary coach. □



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It's been a predictably tough year for Indiana, even with Pascal Siakam playing like an All-Star

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Indiana's Pascal Siakam went 1-on-1 against Boston's Derrick White as time was running out, backed into him a couple of times near the foul line, spun into the lane and then watched his shot kiss off the backboard and fall for what became a game-winner. For the Pacers, it was joy. There hasn't been much of that this season. Monday night's 98-96 victory over the Celtics one where Boston coach Joe Mazzulla answered every question in his postgame news conference by saying "illegal screen" sent Indiana's record to just 9-31 on the season, still the worst in the Eastern Conference. And that's even with the Pacers now on a three-game winning streak. It's a far cry from seven months ago, when Indiana



Indiana Pacers forward Pascal Siakam (43) drives to the basket against Charlotte Hornets forward Moussa Diabate during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026.

was in Game 7 of the NBA Finals and fully believing it was about to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder for the title. Then Tyrese Haliburton tore his Achilles in the first half, Myles Turner left in free agency and ... well, everything is different. Except, that is, for Siakam.

He was an All-Star last season, his third selection to the league's showcase game, and has even better numbers this season.

And with the debut of another new All-Star format this season U.S. vs. the World the forward from Cameroon is hoping to get another invite. "It's going to be an honor if it happens," Siakam said. "I'm not too focused on it. I just try to be the best player that I could be out there every single night. Some nights are going to be great. Some nights are not. But I just stick to the work and hopefully it comes with some accomplishments."

Indiana coach Rick Carlisle has been campaigning. Siakam's heroics on Monday night made it easy to keep it going. "Just further makes the case for the All-Star team," Carlisle said. Siakam is averaging 23.5 points and 6.8 rebounds; only nine other players right now have numbers like that per game in both categories. □

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Diamondbacks acquire 8-time All-Star 3B Nolan Arenado in a deal with the Cardinals

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Baseball Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona Diamondbacks acquired eight-time All-Star third baseman Nolan Arenado from St. Louis for minor league pitcher Jack Martinez in a trade Tuesday in which the Cardinals also are including \$31 million. A 10-time Gold Glove winner, Arenado has played for the Cardinals the past five seasons and was shopped extensively after the 2024 season by a rebuilding team. The 34-year-old isn't the offensive force he used to be but will still provide a veteran presence at the position after the D-backs

traded slugger Eugenio Suárez at last season's trade deadline.

Arenado batted .237 with 12 homers and 52 RBIs last season and as two years and \$42 million remaining on a contract paying him \$275 million for nine years. He is owed \$42 million, with salaries of \$27 million this year and \$15 million in 2027. St. Louis agreed to send Arizona \$22 million to offset this season's salary \$2,666,666.67 on the 15th of each month from April to September and \$9 million on Nov. 1, 2027. Arenado waived a no-trade provision to accept the deal.

"We are grateful for Nolan's five years as a Cardinal, on and off the field for his drive, his competitiveness, and for all of the memories he gave us," Cardinals president of baseball operations Chaim Bloom said in a statement. "As we continue to move forward, we are pleased to add another intriguing pitching prospect to our organization, and excited for the opportunity this move creates for a number of our players to step up and further establish themselves at the big league level," Bloom added. Martinez was an eighth round pick by the D-backs

out of Arizona State in 2025. Arenado is a career .282 hitter and has 353 homers

over 13 seasons with the Cardinals and Rockies. □



St. Louis Cardinals' Nolan Arenado celebrates in the dugout after hitting a home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs, Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, in Chicago.

Associated Press



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Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin, right, stands on the sideline during the first half of NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Houston Texans, Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, in Pittsburgh. Associated Press

Mike Tomlin steps down after 19 seasons as coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers

By **WILL GRAVES**
AP Sports Writer
PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Mike Tomlin era in Pittsburgh is over.

The longest-tenured head coach in major American professional sports stepped down from his job leading the Steelers on Tuesday after yet another quick playoff exit. The announcement came a day after the end of his 19th season in Pittsburgh, where he was a relative unknown when he was hired to replace Bill Cowher in early 2007. "Obviously, I am extremely grateful to Mike for all the hard work, dedication and success we have shared over the last 19 years. It is hard for me to put into words the level of respect and appreciation I have for Coach Tomlin," Steelers president Art Rooney II said in a statement. "He guided the franchise to our sixth Super Bowl championship and made the playoffs 13 times during his tenure, including winning the AFC North eight times in his career. His track record of never having a losing season in 19 years will likely never be duplicated." Tomlin won one Super Bowl and went to another during his first four seasons in Pittsburgh before the club settled into a pattern of solid if not always spectacular play followed by a playoff cameo that ended with the Steelers on the wrong side of a blowout. The 53-year-old Tomlin won 193 regular-season games in Pittsburgh, tied with Hall of Famer Chuck Noll for the most victories in franchise history. But their resumes diverged when it comes to the playoffs. While Noll won four Super Bowls in the 1970s, Tomlin went just 8-12 in the postseason, losing each of his last seven playoff games, all by double-digit margins. The last came on Monday night, when the AFC North champions squandered some early momentum before getting blown out 30-6 by Houston, the most lopsided home playoff loss in team history. There were chants of "Fire Tomlin!" as the clock kicked toward zero, though they weren't nearly as impassioned as they were in late November while the Steelers were getting pushed around by Buffalo in a loss that dropped their record to 6-6. Tomlin, as is his way, did his best to tune out the noise and his team responded, the way it seemingly always did during his tenure. Pittsburgh won four of its final five games, including a sweep of Baltimore that gave the club its first AFC North title since 2020. The optimism, however, dimmed once the Texans asserted themselves. The NFL's top-ranked defense suffocated Aaron Rodgers and Pittsburgh's offense while the league's highest-paid defense wilted late. It was a familiar and frustrating pattern for a place where, as Tomlin noted not long after his introduction, "the standard is the standard." And while that remains the case for a team whose members walk by six Lombardi Trophies every day on its way to work, the results had plateaued. □

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